

## Pageant Recalls Several 'Firsts' Among Pioneers

Since "The Message of the Ages" pageant is featuring the arrival of the pioneers in Salt Lake Valley, several firsts in connection with this original group will be considered in this article today.

The two first men in the company to enter the valley were Erastus Snow and Orson Pratt, entering on July 21, 1847. The next day an advance party of nine came into the valley and scouted about, located a place for some planting and made other preparations for a permanent settlement. The first wagon of the company to enter the valley belonged to Dr. Willard Richards.

The first man to be bitten by a rattlesnake after the company arrived was Nathaniel Fairbanks. The first birth in the valley was a daughter, born to John and Catharine Campbell Steele, Aug. 9, 1847. She was named Young Elizabeth Steele in honor of Pres. Young and Queen Elizabeth.

The first death in the valley, there were none in the original company since the departure from Nauvoo, was Milton H. Therlkill, three-year-old son of George W. and Jane Therlkill of the Mississippi Company. He wandered away from the main camp and was drowned in City Creek.

The pioneers began their first fort on the land now known as Pioneer Park on Aug. 10, 1847. Planting had been done on July 23, the first crops planted being vegetables and potatoes.

The first Sunday was July 25, the first special conference was held Aug. 22, and the first celebration of the entrance into the valley was held July 24, 1849, two years after their arrival in the Salt Lake Valley.

### Pres. Young First Governor

Brigham Young was the first governor of Utah Territory. Alfred Cumming was the first governor appointed by the federal government and Heber M. Wells was the first governor of the state of Utah.



AWARDS — Bronze alloy medals which will be presented to immigrant pioneers or first place winners in national Centennial



sponsored events are shown with pioneer woman depicting courage, on the front of the medal, left and reverse side at right.

## Centennial Medals of Honor Ready for Early Presentation

Utah Centennial medals of honor, the highest awards possible during the Centennial, have arrived and are ready for early presentation, Gus P. Backman, director of the Centennial, said today.

Less than 400 persons will receive medals, according to Mr. Backman, who said the medals would be presented to all immigrant pioneers, governors of the nation who attend the National Governors' Conference in Salt Lake in July and to winners of first places in national championships events sponsored by the Centennial Commission.

The honor medals are to be distinguished from certificates of honor which will be presented to native pioneers and to win-

ners of all places in national competition, other than first place.

The medals are three inches in diameter and an eighth of an inch thick. A pioneer woman standing beside a covered wagon with a boy on her right and a gun in her left hand. An inscription at the side reads: "Our Heritage, gained by brawn and toil, guided by faith, vision and courage." On the reverse side is "Utah Centennial, 1847-1947" and why and to whom the medal was awarded.



# Sacred Pageant To be Given May 5 to June 6



600 COSTUMES IN THE MAKING.—Mrs. L. S. Dangerfield, 657 Downington Avenue, arranges a costume on her son, Gene Lockwood, in the sewing room where some 300 of the 600 costumes to be used in the pageant, "The Message of the Ages," will be made.

## Admission to Dramatic Spectacle in Tabernacle Will be Free to Public

By Mill Jacob  
After 17 years, "The Message of the Ages" will be reproduced in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. The huge spectacle of the sacred pageant, with a cast of 889, was originally produced in April, 1920, to commemorate the centenary of the organization of the Church.

It is brought back this Centennial year in observance of the arrival of the pioneers into Salt Lake Valley.

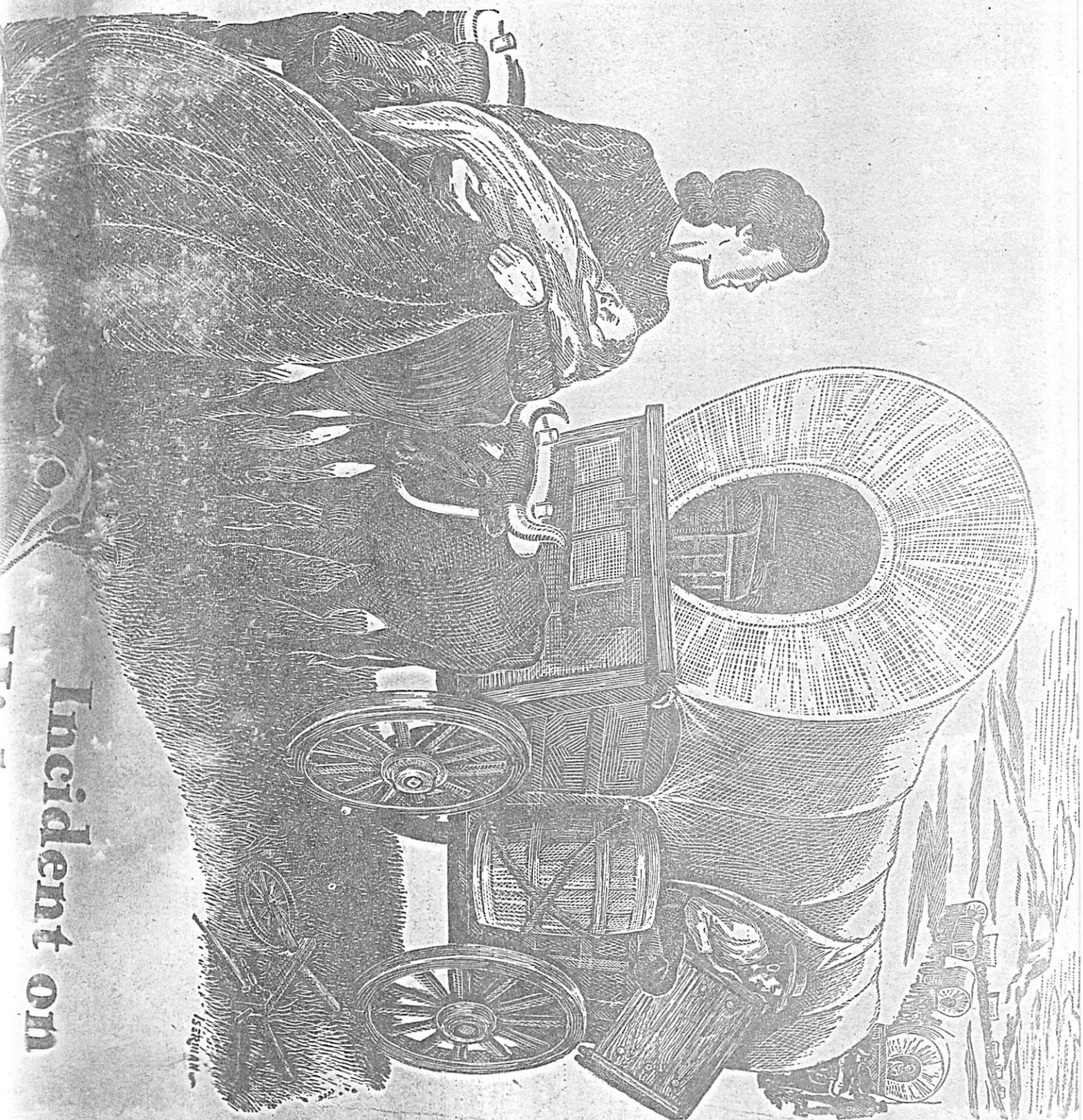
Already a cast of 600 are rehearsing the 47 showing, May 5 to June 6, and performing will be given each week during that period, said A. H. Reiser, chairman of the pageant committee.

With No Charge  
As was the case in 1920, the pageant will be free of charge to the public but admittance tickets will be sold.

to be produced much the same as originally, said Mr. Reiser. The changes include additional scenes of the Old Testament built around the dedication of Solomon's Temple and the prophecies of Isaiah, and the introduction of scenes during the restoration which depict the rise of political liberty.

Originally, the pageant was arranged and produced by a pageant committee composed of the late A. H. Reiser, secretary; the late Julius F. Wells, W. O. Robinson, Lester Hinckley, LeRoy Robertson, the late Anthony Lund, and the late Albert F. East. The pageant was directed by Reiser and Irma Fell-Eliot.

Committee Is Named  
The present pageant committee includes: Mr. Reiser, chairman; Mr. Robinson, directing the



# Incident on





Utah's **PIONEER** Life Insurance Company  
FOUNDED IN 1905 ★ WITH HOME OFFICE IN  
SALT LAKE CITY, Utah

**58**

years after the pioneers entered the Salt Lake

Valley, the Beneficial Life Insurance Company was organized in Salt Lake City. The growth of this pioneer institution is representative of the transformation which

THEODORE R.  
WAS